

BULLETIN: 2019 – 017
Effective Date: January 6, 2020

Green Waste Disposal Procedure for Licensed Dispensaries

Linthicum, MD (December 11, 2019) – The Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission (the “Commission”) is notifying all licensed dispensaries of the following approved green waste disposal procedure. The Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 10.62.30.09 requires licensed dispensaries to either return green waste to a licensed grower or processor or dispose of green waste in accordance with an approved waste disposal plan. This bulletin clarifies the (1) types of products that constitute green waste and (2) approved standard operating procedure for its disposal.

Effective January 6, 2020, the Commission will require licensed dispensaries to incorporate the approved green waste disposal procedure into existing standard operating procedures at licensed dispensaries.

Cannabis Green Waste includes:

- Waste from processing or repackaging that is deemed non-usable, including stems and buds;
- Contaminated cannabis;
- Damaged, deteriorated, adulterated, improperly or accidentally opened products;
- Returned products in any condition;
- Expired cannabis products;
- Un-identifiable cannabis products;
- Un-labeled or mislabeled products;
- Cannabis identified in a recall by a licensed grower or processor, or the Commission;
- Unattended cannabis products discovered at a dispensary facility;
- Any cannabis product that the licensee determines may not be sold to patients;
- Sample items; and
- Display items housed in “sniff jars.”

Please direct any questions regarding this bulletin to enforcement.mmcc@maryland.gov.

Cannabis Green Waste Disposal Procedure for MMCC Licensed Dispensaries

This Green Waste Disposal Standard Operation Procedure is approved by the Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission (MMCC) Bureau of Enforcement and Compliance and shall be incorporated into existing green waste standard operational procedures at MMCC licensed dispensaries by December 1, 2019.

Purpose: This standard operating procedure provides a mandatory standardized method of disposal for all medical cannabis green waste product received in MMCC licensed dispensaries. The procedure ensures accountability for cannabis green waste by establishing appropriate documentation and destruction processes.

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Procedure:

- A. By the close of business each day, all waste shall be documented on the *Cannabis Green Waste Log* attached to this Standard Operational Procedure. The Log shall be available for immediate review upon request by MMCC Bureau of Enforcement and Compliance personnel. The log must include the following information:
1. Date and time the waste was entered into a waste container;
 2. Product name;
 3. Last 9 digits of metric tag number;
 4. Product weight;
 5. Reason or rationale for the product being entered as waste (e.g., returned, contaminated, packaging waste, or defective);
 6. Agent entering into Waste Log;
 7. The waste will be entered into the point-of-sale system for METRC updating. Noting weight and reason for entry as waste;
 8. Date and time of disposal and removal from the facility;

9. Method of disposal (Ex: Returned to grower or processor, kitty litter, mulch, bleach, etc);
10. Agent or manager that actually disposed of waste; and
11. Agent verifying actual disposal of waste.

- B. All Waste that is identified as product to be returned to a licensed grower or processor, shall be manifested back to the Grower in METRC within seven calendar days of the items being documented onto the *Cannabis Green Waste Log*. The licensed grower or processor must be contacted and informed of each item that has been manifested back and any transportation arrangements made.
- C. All product not manifested back to a licensed grower or processor shall immediately be rendered unusable, entered into Waste log and placed into the waste container. This action must be clearly captured on video.
 1. Flower/Dry leaf waste will be ground to the smallest possible degree prior to mixing with a non-cannabis product to a 50:50 ratio or a higher content of non-cannabis product (Example: alcohol, bleach, any other solvent that renders it non-useable, kitty litter, mulch, dirt, or other lose non-consumable material that will render it non-useable).
 2. Non-flower/Non-dry leaf Waste will be emptied into a non-consumable product for disposal. Final destruction will occur no later than 7 days the waste is entered into the Cannabis Green Waste Log and placed in a designated commercial waste bin for pick up and removal from the facility.
- D. Final destruction will occur no later than 7 days after the waste is entered into the *Cannabis Green Waste Log* and placed in a designated commercial waste bin for pick up and removal from the facility. All waste being disposed must be captured on video and will require verification from two dispensary agents documented on the *Cannabis Green Waste Log*.
- E. Package adjustments, for any reason, will be immediately entered into METRC and shall contain a detailed explanation of the package adjustment.
- F. All entries in the *Cannabis Green Waste Log* shall be printed legibly.
- G. Adhere to all METRC procedures for Green Waste entries.

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